

The Mirror

OF
LITERATURE, AMUSEMENT, AND INSTRUCTION.

No. 821.]

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1837.

[Price 2d.]



MR. CURTIS'S ACOUSTIC CHAIR.

The nature of Sound, and the laws of its propagation and production, have, in all ages, excited much attention among philosophers. That the ancients had arrived at considerable proficiency in this branch of natural philosophy is attested by records of their ingenuity, and relics of their inventions. The history of Egypt, the cradle of art and science, presents many examples.

Of the application of this early skill, several interesting proofs are recorded. Thus, we read of "acoustic vessels" in the ancient theatres; these were a kind of vessels made of bone, shaped in the bell fashion, which being of all tones within the pitch of the voice, or even of instruments, rendered the sound more audible; so that the actors could be heard through all parts of theatres, which were over 400 feet in diameter. With the

knowledge of this fact, it is somewhat strange that our public buildings are generally ill-constructed for hearing; and that the only attempted remedy is in costly and uncertain experiments, such as have just been made, but with indifferent success, in the New House of Commons.

The principle of the invention we are about to describe is that of conveying sound to great distances, by means of contrivances termed "Acoustic Tunnels." Reasoning upon the analogy of Light and Sound, Mr. Curtis has well observed that "Reflected sounds, like reflected rays of light, may be deflected, that is, magnified or turned off, by contrivances similar in principle to those employed to increase the powers of vision;" or, in other words, that as the telescope brings objects nearer to the eye, so tunnels or tubes

may be the medium of bringing sounds to the ear. Upon the *rationale* of this fact, Mr. Curtis, the celebrated artist, has invented the chair figured on the previous page, which he thus describes in the sixth edition of his *Treatise on the Physiology and Pathology of the Ear*, a valuable work,—the result of many years' assiduous devotion and professional experience.

"This chair is intended for the benefit and use of the incurable deaf. A somewhat similar chair was constructed in 1706, by M. Duguet, who likewise invented some acoustic tubes. But one of the great advantages possessed by my chair over his, consists in this, that the person sitting in it hears at the opposite side from that at which he is addressed; thus avoiding the unpleasant and injurious practice of the speaker coming so close as to render his breath offensive, and, at the same time, detrimental to the organ of hearing, by causing a relaxation of the membrane of the tympanum. This is an effect commonly produced by the use of short, flexible tubes,* no less than by hearing-trumpets, which latter are as often, perhaps, employed for *speaking* through, as for the purpose for which they were designed; and it is a certain fact, that many persons, after having used a trumpet for half an hour, are quite deaf, from the action of the breath impelled against the membrana tympani.

"My Acoustic Chair is so constructed, that, by means of additional tubes, &c., the person seated in it may hear distinctly, while sitting perfectly at ease, whatever transpires in any apartment from which the pipes are carried to the chair; being an improved application of the principles of the speaking pipes now in general use. This invention is further valuable, and superior to all other similar contrivances, as it requires no trouble or skill in the use of it; and is so perfectly simple in its application that a child may employ it with as much facility, and as effectually as an adult. It is, moreover, a very comfortable and elegant piece of furniture.

"This chair is of the size of a large, library one, and has a high back, to which are affixed two barrels for sound, so constructed as not to appear unsightly; and at the extremity of each barrel is a perforated plate, which collects sound into a paraboloid vase from any part of the room. The instrument thus contrived gathers sound, and impresses it more sensibly by giving to it a

small quantity of air. The convex end of the vase serves to reflect the voice, and renders it more distinct. Further, the air inclosed in the tube being also excited by the voice, communicates its action to the ear, which thus receives a stronger impression from the articulated voice, or indeed from any other sound. What first induced me to invent this chair, was the fatigue I sometimes experienced in talking to deaf persons.

"By means of sufficient tubes, this chair might be made to convey intelligence from St. James's to the Houses of Lords and Commons, and even from London to the King at Windsor. Marvellous as this may seem, the idea is not a novelty; it is but another confirmation of the saying of Solomon, that there is nothing new under the sun. M. Itard, in his excellent work on the ear, tells us that Aristotle, (who was physician to Alexander the Great,) invented a trumpet for his master, which was capable of conveying orders to his generals at the distance of 100 stadia, equal to rather more than twelve miles. And I may remark, bearing in mind, too, that both Alcmeon and Hippocrates are said to have invented ear-trumpets, that the ancients do not seem to have been so ignorant of acoustics as some in our day have represented them."†

In the Engraving, on the near side of the chair, is seen the barrel for sound, with the conductor attached; and beneath the chair is the tunnel for the conveyance of the sound. Within the chair is seen the tube to be applied to the ear. This chair is only adapted for hearing; to complete the design, and convey sound from it to a distance, requires another conductor and a mouthpiece.

Upon the subject of Acoustic Tunnels, we find some illustrative information in Mr. Dick's *Christian Philosopher*, which will be read with peculiar interest in connexion with Mr. Curtis's invention:—"In the progress of human knowledge and improvement," observes Mr. Dick, "it would obviously be of considerable importance, *could we extend the range of the human voice*, and communicate intelligence to the distance of a thousand miles, in the course of two or three hours; or could we hold an occasional conversation with a friend at the distance of twenty or thirty miles. From experiments which have lately been made, in reference to

* Instances are on record in which very baneful and injurious effects have resulted from the practice of speaking into the ear, more especially where the breath of the person is tainted. One case I may mention, which is related by Lord Herbert. Cardinal Wolsey, he tells us, towards the latter part of his life, was in the habit of whispering into the ear of his sovereign, Henry VIII.; and the serious indisposition of the king has been many times attributed to this cause, and certainly not without reason.

† In addition to the facts previously stated in other parts of this treatise, relating to the knowledge possessed by the ancients in the science of acoustics, there is contained in a MS. found some time since to the Vatican, entitled "*Secreta Aristotelis ad Alexandrum Magnum*," an account of a circular trumpet, *five cubits in diameter*, invented by Aristotle for Alexander the Great, and capable of conveying sound twelve miles. The power of this trumpet must, therefore, have been greatly superior to that invented by Sir John Moreland, which only conveyed sound, on the open sea, to the extent of about two miles, even when the wind was favourable.

the conveyance of sound, we have some reason to believe that such objects may not be altogether unattainable. * * In Nicholson's *Philosophical Journal* for February, 1863, Mr. E. Walker describes a simple apparatus, connected with a speaking trumpet, by means of which, at the distance of 174 feet, he held a conversation with another in whispers, too low to be heard through the air at that distance. When the ear was placed in a certain position, the words were heard as if they had been spoken by an invisible being within the trumpet. And, what rendered the deception still more pleasing, the words were more distinct, softer, and more musical, than if they had been spoken through the air."

But what bears more closely on the object hinted at above, are the experiments made by M. Biot, "on the transmission of sound through solid bodies, and through air in very long tubes," which Mr. Dick proceeds to quote:—

"These experiments were made by means of long cylindrical pipes, which were connected for conduits and aqueducts, to embellish the city of Paris. With regard to the velocity of sound, it was ascertained that, 'its transmission through cast iron is 10½ times as quick as through air.' The pipes by which he wished to ascertain at what distances sounds are audible, were 1,039 yards, or nearly five furlongs, in length. M. Biot was stationed at the one end of this series of pipes, and Mr. Martin, a gentleman who assisted in the experiments, at the other. They heard the lowest voice, so as perfectly to distinguish the words, and to keep up a conversation on all the subjects of the experiments. 'I wished,' says M. Biot, 'to determine the point at which the human voice ceases to be audible, but could not accomplish it: words spoken as low as when we whisper a secret in another's ear, were heard and understood; so that not to be heard, there was but one resource, that of not speaking at all.—This mode of conversing with an invisible neighbour, is so singular, that we cannot help being surprised, even though acquainted with the cause. Between question and answer, the interval was not greater than was necessary for the transmission of sound. For Mr. Martin and me, at the distance of 1,039 yards, this time, was about 5½ seconds.' Reports of a pistol fired at one end, occasioned a considerable explosion at the other. The air was driven out of the pipe with sufficient force to give the hand a smart blow, to drive light substances out of it to the distance of half a yard, and to extinguish a candle, though it was 1,039 yards' distance from the place where the pistol was fired." A detailed account of these experiments may be seen in Nicholson's *Phil. Mag.* for October, 1811. Don Caution, the

inventor of the telegraph, suggested also the method of conveying articulate sounds to a great distance. He proposed to build horizontal tunnels, widening at the remoter extremity, and found that at the distance of 400 fathoms, or nearly half a mile, the ticking of a watch could be heard far better than close to the ear. He calculated that a series of such tunnels would convey a message 900 miles in an hour.

"From the experiments now stated, it appears highly probable, that sounds may be conveyed to an indefinite distance. If one man can converse with another at the distance of nearly three quarters of a mile, by means of the softest whisper, there is every reason to believe, that they could hold a conversation at the distance of 30 or 40 miles, provided the requisite tunnels were constructed for this purpose. The latter case does not appear more wonderful than the former. Were this point fully determined, by experiments conducted on a more extensive scale, a variety of interesting effects would follow, from a practical application of the results. A person at one end of a large city, at an appointed hour, might communicate a message, or hold a conversation with his friend, at another; friends in neighbouring, or even in distant towns, might hold an occasional correspondence by articulate sounds, and recognise each other's identity by their tones of voice. In the case of sickness, accident, or death, intelligence could thus be instantly communicated, and the tender sympathy of friends immediately exchanged. A clergyman sitting in his own room in Edinburgh, were it at any time expedient, might address a congregation in Musselburgh or Dalkeith, or even in Glasgow. He might preach the same sermon to his own church, and the next hour to an assembly at sixty miles' distance. And surely there could be no valid objection to trying the effect of an invisible preacher on a Christian audience. On similar principles, an apparatus might be constructed for augmenting the strength of the human voice, so as to make it extend its force to an assembled multitude composed of fifty or a hundred thousand individuals. In short, intelligence respecting every important discovery, occurrence, and event, might thus be communicated, through the extent of a whole kingdom, within the space of an hour after it had taken place."

Mr. Curtis is now engaged in adapting this principle to purposes of considerable extent, utility, and importance. Thus, he has already submitted to the Lords of the Treasury, a plan for conveying messages from one Government office to another. The outlay for the execution of this plan would be very considerable; but, assuming its thorough practicability, the saving of time and labour insured by it, would prove a great advantage.

CALCULATIONS.

A STATEMENT of the populousness of the principal states in the modern world lately appeared in some of the provincial journals. According to that statement, England is more densely peopled than any other extensive district, not even excepting India and China. England, however, is certainly much less populous than were Egypt and Palestine in ancient times; and even without comparing her with regions superior in soil and climate, she cannot be supposed to have attained her highest amount of population, while she has nearly three acres of land to every inhabitant. Moderns are apt to doubt the truth of the ancient records of the populousness of Egypt and Palestine; but if we take into account the almost universal prevalence of a vegetable diet, the matchless fertility and miraculous activity of the soil, the almost exclusive attention to agriculture, and the abstemiousness of the consumers, we can believe that the inhabitants jostled each other like maggots in a cheese. In England, every acre might maintain its man; and in the more highly favoured regions, which we have named, a family to an acre would not have exceeded the resources of the soil. *

* * * * * A square mile contains 3,087,600 square yards, and, at the rate of four persons, large and small, to a square yard, 12,390,400 human beings. Thus the swarming population of the United States could be crowded, without inconvenience, into a square mile, and could be walked round in an hour. In like manner, the host of Xerxes, of which the Grecians represent one end as seeing the sun rise, and the other as seeing him at the same instant set, could have been ranged in close order on a field of a hundred acres, and could all have heard the voice of one speaker.—*Gould's Advice to Emigrants.*

Manners and Customs.

MARRIAGE.

As my Lord of Verulam most sapiently observes, "the predominance of custom is every where visible." There is scarcely a hamlet, or town, of remote date, throughout the kingdom, which is not possessed of some distinctive mark in an accustomed usage, or the exercise of some ancient privilege, whereby a singularity is denoted. We exclude from our sphere such lawless practices as the bull-fight—more fitting the braggadocio of Spain; the bear-bait, or such other inhuman feats of cruelty, the outrage of all morality and true English feeling—and confine ourselves to the more innocent and unoffending, "a good, old English custom." An example of such we find existing in Knutsford, a town in a central part of the county of Chester. This town is small, but of high antiquity, and takes its name, *Canutesford*,

from the circumstance of King Canute having, with his army, after some victorious engagement, crossed the brook Birkin, which skirts the lower part of the town. The custom here observed is that of garlanding the streets with sand, on occasion of marriage. The strewing, which is not unfrequently very general, is done by each occupant, and confined to the frontage of his or her own habitation; and ere the ceremony of marriage has been performed, the streets present—

one beauteous device,
By earthy sand so formed.

The mode of this *sanding* is not throughout the same, for the diamond and segment of circle forms are beheld mutually connecting each other; select passages too, the effusive sentiments of respect, such as, "long life and happiness," are found interspersed; nor is, altogether, the couplet disregarded, though its appearance may be said to be rare.

The circumstances attendant on the origin of this custom are somewhat obscure. Varied, numerous varied, are the histories recited by the olden inhabitants: the palm of credence, however, I find awarded to that which, to a disinterested observer, may appear a very probable cause. It is, that prior to the year 1774, when the erection of the present edifice for divine worship, dedicated to St. John, took place, the church in which that service was performed, was situated about a mile north-ward from the town, and, though comprising a tower, did not contain a peal of bells, and, as may be supposed, was mute on the celebration of marriage, as on all other occasions. Devoid of the means by which they might, in tones of joy, announce those tidings to the people, and of their influence by which to make light the saddened heart, the inhabitants had resort to the practice we have described. This usually commenced with the clerk of the church, who was a resident of the town; the example would speedily become known, and followed up. At this period, not only were the intermixture of red and white sands their emblems of respect, but garlands of flowers likewise, which latter were tastefully devised, not according to custom, but fancy; but, from the absence of these in the winter season, the garland was in time forgotten, and the *sanding* alone remained.

Its prevalence, after the erection of the present church, which contains six bells, is unaccounted for. With some, its continuance may have been induced from no specious desire to infringe on an olden custom; and who, it may be supposed, might have been duly impressed with the injunction, as subsequently set forth by Locke:—"Who dares disobey what custom has ordained?"

To such a degree has the custom become

engendered in the present race of inhabitants, that to neglect its performance, would scarcely be conceived in a less light than that of insult to the newly-joined couple. To the avoidance of this superstitious feeling, therefore, may more properly be ascribed its long-continued usage.

J. M. O.

Fine Arts.

ON THE APPLICATION OF MONASTIC OR CHRISTIAN ARCHITECTURE TO MODERN MANSIONS.*

By J. Britton, F.S.A., &c.

THE dissolution of religious houses, in England, by that ruthless murderer, Henry VIII., occasioned vast and radical changes in the political, religious, and moral conditions of society. Amongst these changes Architecture was more palpably affected than any other art; indeed, that era constitutes an important,—a marked epoch in its history. From the earliest annals of demi-civilization in this country, up to that time, all the architectural works,—and they were numerous, fine, amazing, and replete with all the elements of art and science, were produced by the ecclesiastics in the varied grades of the monastic orders. The monasteries embraced and held within their venerable and hallowed walls, all the talents, and nearly all the human power of the kingdom. In these were nursed, and reared to maturity, the men who designed and erected the wondrous and admirable cathedrals of York, Canterbury, Salisbury, Lincoln, and other similar edifices, which at the present time serve to animate ambition, and to excite astonishment and delight. These men, also, we may reasonably infer, designed and erected the fortresses of London, of Rochester, of Canterbury, &c., and we know that they even governed monarchs, and kept barons in bondage. The splendours of Catholic Architecture, with the ostentation and gorgeous display of their religious ceremonies, kept the public mind in awe, and held it in dependant vassalage. But like all other human tyrannies, for this ultimately became one,—like all other political and moral diseases, it provoked rebellion—it worked its own cure. Architecture, however, suffered most severely in the suppression of monasteries; for its professors were not only dispossessed of power, but of property, and also of the means of employing and exercising their talents. The peculiar and unrivalled architecture which they had studied and practised so extensively, and with such countless variety, was discountenanced, and even avoided, if not despised.

After passing through all the gradations of studied, but successive improvement, from

almost barbarian rudeness and ugliness to refinement, and even up to meretricious beauty; it sunk at once—forsaken by its professors and patrons, and a hybrid, mongrel monster substituted in its place. Architecture, and all the other arts, having been banished the cloister, were left to roam at large, and like the mendicant orders, beg their way to obtain a livelihood and to seek for decent support. It is well known that monarchs and a few nobles employed and paid painters, sculptors, carvers, and architects, at stipulated periodical wages, and we find in the household accounts of Henry VIII., that Holbein, John of Padua, Laurence Bradshaw, Sir Richard Lea, and some others were thus engaged, and designed some of the houses then erected.

"The last epoch of the true Gothic," says my esteemed friend, Wilson, of Lincoln, (*Fugate's Examples*, vol. ii., p. xvi.), "may be dated in the early part of the sixteenth century, immediately before the partial introduction of Italian architecture, which was made by John of Padua, and other foreign artists under the patronage of King Henry VIII. The mixed style which then came into fashion continued with few exceptions till the middle of the following century. Its mouldings and other ornaments, soon deviated very widely from the style of the fifteenth century, becoming more extensively mingled with Italian details; but without any attention to the severe and simple proportions of classic style. The pointed arch was not entirely disused, but the semicircle was more generally adopted. The windows were deprived of the rich mouldings and tracery which had hitherto given them unrivalled beauty; but they were not reduced to the moderate breadth prescribed by the rules of Roman architecture." On the contrary, in the halls and galleries of the Elizabethan and James's age, they were large, square, and lofty, and divided into many compartments by upright mullions and by transoms. Among other mansions illustrative of that age and class—we may refer to Hardwick Hall—to Audley-End and to Hatfield, to Longleat, Burleigh, and Wollaton.

An affection of the classical or pagan architecture was frequently blended with the Gothic, and was much patronised. From that age to the present, caprice, whim, and even ignorance, have too much prevailed in directing and designing the public and private buildings of our country: it is true there were occasional instances of professional skill, and something like taste exercised; but, excepting in the Priory Church of Bath, I do not recollect a sacred building, or a mansion, which contains any tolerable specimen of the genuine monastic style of architecture. During the reigns of Elizabeth, the Jameses, the Charleses,

* Notical at page 19 of the present volume.

William and Mary, Anne, and Georges the 1st and 2nd, the genius of national architecture, and even of taste, seems to have forsaken our country. There were, however, such men as Jones, Wren, Vanbrugh, Burlington, Hawksmoor, Kent, and a few other disciples of the Roman School; but they neither knew—nor could they appreciate—the merits of their Christian, commonly called *Gothic*, predecessors. What could be more discordant—what could be more incongruous and offensive to the eye, than the Roman portico which Inigo Jones placed against the west front of St. Paul's Cathedral? "None but himself could be his parallel." He therefore designed Ionic and Doric screens, for the altar and the organ, at Winchester and in other cathedrals: to make contrasts and oppositions as palpable as possible, Sir Christopher Wren—the learned, the amiable, the estimable Sir Christopher—was employed extensively in designing new, and altering, and repairing, old churches. He was also largely engaged in buildings at Oxford; but in all these we may suppose that he was impelled to follow the fashion of the times—to adapt his designs to the prejudices of his patrons, and most probably, also, in accordance with his own prejudices. Had he seen and felt the beauties, the harmony of parts and proportions, in the nave of Westminster Abbey Church he never would have designed or erected the two towers which now disfigure its western front; and had not the schoolmen of Oxford been as insensible to the charms of Magdalen and Merton Chapels as they were to the writings of Shakspeare, they would never have tolerated Wren's additions to All Souls' College, or the monstrous porch of St. Mary's Church, or Jones's grotesque gateway to the Botanic Gardens.

If the Gothic architecture of our ancestors was not wholly despised by the professors of the art from the reign of Henry VIII. to that of Geo. III., it may be safely asserted that they were entirely incapable of appreciating its manifold merits. In the latter reign we hail a new light in the horizon of art; and it is a curious fact in the history of English literature and civilization, that this light broke in upon, and illumined, the two Universities at nearly the same time. It is also equally curious that, like many other valuable reforms, it derived its influence from literature, (that harbinger of fame and philanthropy). Gray, Warburton, Warton, Walpole, Bentham, Essex, and Mason, were residents of the Universities at that time. They had eyes to see, with sensibility and sense to feel the beauties, the intricacies, the sublimities of King's College Chapel, of Ely Cathedral, and of other such buildings in the eastern parts of England; also the Gothic Colleges, Churches, and Cathedral of Oxford, the College of Eton, and the Cathedral of

Winchester, and they gave vivid expression to their feelings in various publications. Bentham's valuable volume on *Ely Cathedral*, the architectural part of which was doubtlessly improved by the opinions of such men as Essex, Gray, and Walpole, directed the attention of students to the subject. Gray's odes and letters,—Walpole's various essays and correspondence, and his practical, but petty, exemplification of modern Gothic, in his "pasteboard villa," as he calls it himself, at Strawberry Hill, induced men of letters, virtue, and taste, and even the affectors of taste, to talk about, and even to think on the subject. It appeared as a novelty,—it was ridiculed by satirists, was praised by poets, and was diversely commented on by professional and amateur critics. All this tended to its welfare, for it induced men of good sense, and common sense, to look at and inquire into the merits and integral characteristics of those monastic edifices which were referred to as prototypes for Strawberry Hill and for other villas. The contrast and comparison became ludicrous, and "Modern Gothic" was stigmatized by the professors, and avoided by noblemen and gentlemen who had to erect new houses. The designs of Betty Langley were even worse than the Walpole Gothic, and these had nearly brought the newly-revived architecture into contempt.

Wyatt next came before the public and obtained its favour; he was extensively employed in Roman and in "Gothic" designs and restorations: and though he was much praised and much censured for his works at Durham, Lichfield, and Salisbury Cathedrals, he obtained fame and great profits from his works at Lee Priory, in Kent; Sheffield-place, Sussex; Cassiobury, Herts; Windsor Palace; Kew Palace; Fonthill Abbey; the Houses of Parliament; and Ashridge, Hertfordshire. Some of these were great and important buildings: and it would gratify me to speak of them in terms of unmixed commendation; but Mr. Wyatt had been instructed in, and had studied, the Roman school; he was courted and flattered by the great in early life, and became either too indolent or too self-sufficient in later life to study the more difficult and intricate ecclesiastical architecture of his own country. Hence many of his poor and even trifling designs were carried into execution at Cassiobury, Fonthill, Kew, the House of Lords, and even at Windsor. His new house at Ashridge has many fine and some grand features, whilst part of its details are good and even beautiful. That noble mansion, as well as the magnificent palace of Windsor, have been materially and substantially improved by Sir Jeffry Wyatville, who, in these buildings, in the enlargement of Longleat, and in other works, has manifested genius to invent,

and judgment to apply new designs to old and admired works.

Without adverting further to other instances of executed modern Gothic, I might be accused of want of feeling for, or respect to, the younger men of the profession, who have lately exhibited so many excellent designs for the New Houses of Parliament. In spite of the severe philippics of Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Wilkins, and other writers on this subject, I will venture to assert that the competition thus excited, and the drawings produced, have been advantageous to the profession and honourable to the country. I am sanguine enough to believe, and bold enough to predict, that it constitutes an important and marked era in the history of the art, and will tend more to give it a national character, and to separate the legitimate artist from the artisan, than any circumstance that has ever occurred in our country. It has called into action, and to public notice and admiration, the latent talents of architects before unknown to fame:—it has proved that there are many young artists of varied genius and qualifications who only require opportunities to obtain honour for themselves and their country, by a full and free exercise of their professional abilities.*

* Reported in the Cheltenham Annuaire for 1837.

Spirit of Discovery.

NEW STEAM-BOAT.

A PATENT has been taken out by a number of influential gentlemen connected with Glasgow and Greenock for building a steam-boat of a new construction. The model is taken from a recent improvement introduced by the Americans, who, we are informed, have been quite successful in combining great expedition with little draught of water. The steamer is to have two keels, and but one wheel, and that one is to be placed in the centre of the vessel. She will be very lengthy, and will be able to navigate the river in all states of the tide. The funnel is to be so adapted that it can, with the vessel sailing at full speed, be lowered down to enable her to pass below the bridges. The saloon is to surround the paddle-wheel, which will, of course, be boxed in. It is expected that she will be able to make the trip between Glasgow and Greenock within an hour.

LOCOMOTIVE ENGINES.

A LOCOMOTIVE engine upon an improved principle, has been constructed by Mr. Thomas Dobson, engineer to Mr. J. Hargreave, of Bolton, and lately made its first journey to Liverpool, with a train of 21 heavily laden wagons, and returned the same day with 24. The ease with which it

seemed to perform the labour, together with its exterior beauty, attracted particular attention. The principal improvements are as follow:—The cylinders are fixed on the outside of the smoke-box, and the power is directly applied to two cranks, attached to two of the large wheels, to which the other two large wheels are coupled by a connecting rod; hence, the necessity of the cranked axle is done away with altogether. Again, the tubes in the boiler are made of wrought iron; they are lighter and more durable than those made either of copper or brass, and considerably less expensive. There is also an apparatus for regulating the exhausted steam through the mouth of the blast-pipe, which has a tendency to regulate the speed of the engine, at the same time causes the fire to burn with greater rapidity, and thereby raises the steam in the boiler. The name given to the engine is that of "Utilis."

SUBSTITUTE FOR INDIGO.

A PATENT was lately taken out, by Mr. Hendriks, of Copthall Chambers, for the manufacture of this substitute, and for improvements in dyeing with it. Very extensive works for the manufacture are erected at Stratford, which give employment to a great number of persons in collecting blood from the various slaughter-houses in town, and also, in the collection of refuse horn, leather, and other animal substances: these, combined with an alkali, are calcined, and a pure salt obtained therefrom. This salt, in combination with acids and iron, produces a fine, brilliant, blue colour, which, when applied to woollens and other fabrics, resists the action of light and air, and is consequently permanent. Thus we find a substitute, the produce of our own country, for an article hitherto considered the "staple of Bengal." Dye-houses are now erected in the borough of Southwark, and at Old Ford, for the purpose of using this substitute; and several hundred pieces of cloths and serges have been dyed, the latter for the China market; where they are preferred to those dyed with indigo, in consequence of the colours being more brilliant and durable than those produced by the use of indigo.

Anecdote Gallery.

RECEIVING HOUSES OF THE SPECTATOR AND TATLER.

"TRIFLES light as air," when connected with men of genius, and associated with literature, become interesting to every well-attuned mind. Hence, many persons will feel gratified in having presented to them fac-simila of the premises so celebrated in



(Receiving Houses of the Spectator and Tatler.)

the days of the *SPECTATOR* and *TATLER*, when statesmen were either men of letters or their patrons, and when nobility was dignified by the familiar association of genius. The house in Fulwood's Rents, Holborn, where letters were received for the *Spectator*, at that time bore the name of Squire's Coffee-house; and the *Trumpet*, in Shire-lane, Temple Bar, whence the *Tatlers* were dated, still exists as the Duke of York public-house.

The Naturalist.

HUNTING THE TARANTULA SPIDER.

[We quote the following very entertaining details from *Observations upon the Tarantula*, by M. Leon Dufour, in the *Annales des Sciences Naturelles*, 1836; ably translated in the *Magazine of Natural History*, No. 2, New Series.]

This celebrated spider inhabits, from preference, exposed places; dry, barren, uncultivated, and open to the sun. It hides itself, generally, at least when it is full-grown, in underground passages, complete burrows, which it digs for itself. These burrows, though noticed by many authors, have been imperfectly apprehended and studied. Cylindrical, and often 1 in. in diameter, they are sunk more than 1 ft. in the soil. But they are not simply perpendicular, as has been advanced. The inhabitant of the

trench proves that he is, at the same time, a skilful hunter and an able engineer. It was necessary, not only that he should construct a deep intrenchment, which might hide him from the pursuit of his enemies; he must also establish there a place of observation, from which he could spy out his prey, and dart, like an arrow, upon it. The tarantula has foreseen all. The subterranean passage has, in effect, at first, a vertical direction; but, at 4 in. or 5 in. from the surface, it turns in an obtuse angle, forms a horizontal bend, and then re-assumes the perpendicular. It is at the commencement of this bend that the tarantula, established as a vigilant sentinel, never for a moment loses sight of the door of his dwelling; and it was here that, at the time I was seeking him, as I shall proceed to relate, I perceived his eyes, glittering like diamonds, rendered bright, like those of a cat, by the darkness. The exterior orifice of the tarantula's burrow is ordinarily surmounted by a funnel constructed altogether by itself, and which no author has mentioned. This funnel, a true piece of architecture, rises about 1 in. above the surface of the soil, and is sometimes 2 in. in diameter; so that it is larger than the burrow itself.

This last circumstance, which looks like a piece of forethought in the industrious spider, is of wonderful use, in the necessary extension of its legs, at the moment when it is about to seize its prey. This funnel is prin-

spially composed of fragments of dry wood united by a little clay, and disposed one upon another, in such an artist-like manner, that they form a scaffolding in the shape of an upright column, of which the interior is a hollow cylinder. What establishes most firmly the solidity of this tubular edifice, of this advanced bastion, is, that it is lined, tapestried within by a tissue formed of the threads of the tarantula, and which is continued through the whole interior. It is easy to conceive how useful this skilfully fabricated drapery must be, both in preventing the crumbling in of the earth, or any such accident to the structure, and for the maintenance of its order, and also to assist the tarantula in scaling his fortress.

I have admitted that this outer fortification of the burrow does not always exist: indeed, I have often met with the holes of tarantulas where no traces of it could be seen. Possibly, in these instances, it might have been accidentally destroyed by unfavourable weather; or the tarantula might not always meet with materials for its construction; or, perhaps, the talent for architecture only declares itself in individuals arrived at the last stage of physical and intellectual development. Nevertheless, it is very certain that I have had numerous opportunities of proving the existence of these funnels, these outworks of the tarantula's abode. This spider has had many purposes to answer in its construction. It not only protects its intrenchment from insulations, and fortifies it against the falling of external bodies, which, swept by the winds, would be likely to close it up, but it also serves as an ambush, by offering to flies and other insects upon which the tarantula feeds, an enticing resting-place. Who shall tell us all the stratagems employed by this adroit and intrepid hunter?

We will now give some account of the watch after the tarantula, which is amusing enough. The months of May and June are the most favourable season for making it. The first time that I discovered the holes of this spider, and had satisfied myself that they were inhabited, by perceiving him stationed at the first stage of his dwelling, which is the head that I have already described, I thought the best way to obtain possession of him would be to attack him by open force, and follow him to the termination of his burrow. I passed whole hours opening the intrenchment with my knife, in order to sack his domicile. I dug to the depth of more than 1 ft. over a space 2 ft. in width, without meeting with the tarantula. I recommenced my operation in other holes, and always with as little success. I ought to have had a pickaxe to attain my end; but I was far from any house, and in Spain. I was then obliged to change my plan of attack; and I had recourse to stratagem. Necessity, they say, is the mo-

ther of invention. It occurred to me to take, by way of bait, a stalk surmounted by a spikelet, and to shake it, and rub it gently against the opening of the hole. I was not long in perceiving that the attention and desire of the *Lycosa* was awakened. Tempted by this lure, he advanced, with a slow and irresolute step, towards the spikelet; and upon my drawing it back a little out of the hole, in order to leave him no time for reflection, he frequently used to throw himself, at one spring, out of his dwelling, the entrance of which I instantly closed. In this case, the tarantula, greatly disconcerted to find himself unable to regain his domicile, was very awkward in his attempts to elude my pursuit; and I obliged him to take up his quarters in a piece of paper, in which I instantly shut him up.

It sometimes happened that, suspecting the snare, or, perhaps, less pressed by hunger, he held back, immovable, at a little distance from his door, which he did not judge it advisable to pass, until my patience was completely exhausted. When this occurred, these are the tactics I made use of:—After having well observed the direction of the hole and the position of the spider, I drove in with force, and in an oblique direction, the blade of my knife, in such a manner as to surprise the creature behind, and cut off his retreat by stopping up his hole. I seldom missed my stroke, especially in soil which was not stony. In this critical situation, either the tarantula, terrified, quitted his covert to make his escape, or he persisted obstinately in remaining driven up against the blade of the knife. Upon this, causing the knife to make a sudden sweep, I threw out both the earth and the spider, and seized upon the latter. By employing this method of capture, I sometimes took as many as fifteen tarantulas in an hour.

In some circumstances, when the tarantula was quite aware of the deceit which I was practising, I have been not a little surprised, on my pushing in the spikelet so as to even touch him in his den, to see him play with it with a sort of contempt, and push it back with his claws, without giving himself the trouble to seek the farther end of his retreat.

The Apulian peasants, from Baglivi's account, also hunt the tarantula, imitating, at the mouth of the hole, the humming of an insect, by means of an oaten stalk.

The tarantula, frightful as it is at first sight, especially when one is impressed with the idea of danger from its bite, and shy as it appears, is yet very capable of being tamed, as I have many times found by experience. Here, perhaps, I may be allowed to recount, in few words, the history of one of these spiders, which I kept alive for more than five months.

On May 7, 1812, during my stay at Valencia, in Spain, I took, without hurting him, a tarantula of tolerable size, which I imprisoned in a glass covered over with paper, in which I had made a square opening. In the bottom of the glass, I had fixed the roll of paper in which I had carried him, and which was to serve him for a dwelling. I placed the glass upon a table in my sleeping room, that I might have frequent opportunities of watching him. He quickly accustomed himself to his cell, and ended by becoming so familiar, that he would come to eat out of my fingers the living fly that I brought him. After having given his victim its death-wound with his jaws, he did not content himself, like most spiders, with sucking the head, but bruised all its body by plunging it successively into his mouth with his feelers. He then threw away the triturated remains, and swept them to a distance from his hiding-place. After his repast, he seldom omitted, attending to his toilet, which consisted in bushing, with the tarsi of his anterior legs, his feelers and mandibles, without as well as within; and having done this, he resumed his attitude of immovable gravity. The evening and night were his times of walking, and attempting to escape. I often heard him scratching against the paper of his prison. These nocturnal habits confirmed my opinion, that the greater number of spiders have, like cats, the faculty of seeing by night, as well as by day.

The 28th of June, my tarantula changed his skin; and this moult, which was the last, did not alter, in any perceptible manner, either the colour of his covering, or the size of his body.

The 14th of July, I was obliged to leave Valencia; and I remained absent till the 23rd. During this time, the tarantula fasted. I found him quite well upon my return. The 20th of August, I was again absent for a period of nine days, which my prisoner supported without food, and without any alteration in his health. The 1st of October, I again left the tarantula without any provision. The 21st of this month, being twenty leagues from Valencia, where I was about to remain, I sent a servant to bring him to me. I had the regret of finding that the vase which contained him was no where to be met with; and I could not learn his fate.

I shall terminate my remarks upon the tarantula by a short description of a singular combat between these creatures. In the month of June, 1810, one day, when I had been successful in my search, I chose two full-grown and very vigorous males, which I put together in a large vase, that I might witness the spectacle of a mortal combat. After having many times made the circuit of their arena, in the endeavour to shun each other, they hastened, as at a given signal, to

set themselves in a warlike attitude. I saw them, with surprise, taking their distance, and gravely rising upon their hind legs, so as to present to each other the buckler formed by their chests. After having looked each other in the face for about two minutes, and, without doubt, provoked each other by glances which I could not discern, I saw them throw themselves upon one another, entwine their legs, and endeavour, in an obstinate struggle, to wound each other with the hooks of their mandibles. Either from fatigue, or by mutual consent, the combat was for awhile suspended: there was a truce for some seconds; and each wrestler, retiring to a little distance, resumed his menacing posture. This circumstance reminded me, that in the single encounters of cats, there were also suspensions of arms. But the struggle was not long in recommencing, with more fury than before, between the two tarantulas. One of them, after victory had been for a long time doubtful, was at length overthrown, and mortally wounded in the head; he became the prey of the vanquisher, who tore open his skull, and devoured him. After this murderous combat, I kept the victorious tarantula alive for many weeks.

New Books.

CURIOSITIES OF MEDICAL EXPERIENCE.

By J. G. Millingen, M.D.

[Books of "Curiosities" yield more attractive and amusing reading than any other class of works. The utility of such reading may be questionable; since, in most cases, it is not well regulated, or likely to enable us to increase our stock of knowledge upon any subject. It is one thing to amass materials or information, and another thing to mould them into knowledge. Dr. Millingen's two handsome volumes will furnish considerable gratification to a very numerous class of readers—we mean such as have a predilection for a book that can be read bit by bit; and for one methodical reader, there be many scores of these literary dippers. It will not, therefore, be difficult to select a few columns of entertainment from these *Curiosities*,—pith and marrow, as they are, in comparison with the dry bones of philosophy. The Doctor, by the way, is a good hand at a story and a diligent collector: being Surgeon to the Forces, we might expect to find him an old soldier in such amusing matters.]

Unlawful Cures.

Witches and impostors, says Lord Bacon, have always held a competition with physicians. Galen complains of this superstition, and observes that patients placed more cred-

dents in the oracles of Esculapius and their own idle dreams than in the prescriptions of doctors. The introduction of precious stones into medical practice, owed its origin to a superstitious belief that, from their beauty, splendour, and high value, they were the natural receptacles for good spirits. Mystery, in the dark ages, and, alas! even now, increases the confidence in remedial means; reveal their true nature, the charm is dissolved: "*Minus credunt quæ ad suam salutem pertinent si intelligunt*," said Pliny. One cannot but wonder when we behold men pre-eminent in deep learning and acute observation becoming converts to such superstitious practices. Lord Bacon believed in spells and amulets; and Sir Theodore Mayneux, who was physician to three English sovereigns, and supposed to have been Shakespeare's Dr. Caius, believed in supernatural agency, and frequently prescribed the most disgusting and absurd medicines, such as the heart of a mule ripped up alive, a portion of the lungs of a man who had died a violent death, or the hand of a thief who had been gibbeted on some particular day. Nauseous medicines have ever been deemed the most efficacious, on the reasoning that as every thing medicinal is nauseous, every thing that is nauseous must be medicinal. The ancients firmly believed that blood can be staunched by charms, the bleeding of Ulysses was stopped by this means; and Cato the Censor has given us an incantation for setting displaced bones. To this day, charms are supposed to arrest the flow of blood:—

"Tom Potts was but a serving-man,
But yet he was a doctor good;
He bound his kerchief on the wound,
And with some kind words he staunch'd the blood."

Sir Walter Scott says, in the *Lay of the Last Minstrel*:—

"She drew the splinter from the wound,
And with a charm she staunch'd the blood."

The strength of imagination in effecting wonderful cures has been observed in all ages; and Avicenna declares "that he prescribes confidence before art, precepts, and all remedies whatsoever." Our learned Barton says, "that this strong imagination or conceit is *Astrum Hominis*, and the rudder of this our ship, which reason should steer, but, overborne by phantasia, cannot manage, and so suffers itself and the whole vessel of ours to be overruled and often overturned."

Nothing could be more absurd than the notions regarding some of these supposed cures: a ring made of the hinge of a coffin had the power of relieving cramps; which were also mitigated by having a rusty, old sword hung up by the bedside. Nails driven in an oak-tree prevented the tooth-ache. A halter that had served in hanging

a criminal was an infallible remedy for a head-ache, when tied round the head; this affection was equally cured by the moss growing on a human skull, dried and pulverized, and taken as a cephalic snuff. A dead man's hand could dispel tumours of the glands by stroking the parts nine times, but the hand of a man who had been cut down from the gallows was the most efficacious. To cure warts, one had nothing to do but to steal a piece of beef from the butcher, with which the warts were to be rubbed; then interring it in any filth, and as it rotted, the warts would wither and fall.

The chips of a gallows on which several persons had been hanged, when worn in a bag round the neck, would cure the ague. A stone with a hole in it, suspended at the head of the bed, would effectually stop the nightmare; hence it was called a *Agg-stone*, as it prevents the troublesome witches from sitting upon the sleeper's stomach. The same amulet tied to the key of a stable door, deterred witches from riding horses over the country.

Rickety children were cured by being drawn through a cleft tree, which was afterwards bound up, and as the split wood united, the child acquired strength. Creeping through a perforated stone to cure various disorders was a Druidical rite, still practised in the East. In the parish of Murden, there is a stone with a hole in it, fourteen inches in diameter, through which children are drawn for the rickets; and, in the North, infants are made to pass through a hole cut in a groaning cheese the day of their christening.

Prescriptive Dreams.

Dreams have been considered as prescriptive in various diseases. Diodorus Siculus relates that a certain Scythian dreamed that Æsculapius had drawn the humours of his body to one place or head, to have it lanced. When Galen had an inflammation of the diaphragm, we are told that he was directed in a dream to open a vein between the thumb and the fourth finger,—an operation which restored him to health. Marcus Antoninus asserted that he learned in his dreams, various remedies for spitting of blood. It is related of Sir Christopher Wren, that, when at Paris, in 1671, being disordered with "a pain in his reins," he sent for a physician, who prescribed blood-letting; but he deferred submitting to it, and dreamed that very night that he was in a place where palm-trees grew, and that a woman in a romantic habit offered dates to him. The next day, he sent for dates, which cured him. Now, although this cure, brought about by a dream, was considered wonderful, its circumstances offer nothing supernatural. It is more than probable that Sir Christopher had frequently

read, in foreign works on medicine, that dates were recommended as an efficacious remedy in nephritic complaints; and moreover met, in his daily perambulations, female quacks, who exhibit themselves to this day in the French metropolis, fantastically attired, and vending their farfamed nostrums. That he should have remembered dates, and that the phantasm of the sho-mountainbank might at the same time have struck his fancy, were two associations by no means improbable.

It is very likely that all the strange stories of prophetic dreams might be traced to a similar connexion of ideas. I have before observed that dreams do not always assume their complexion from recent occurrences, and our bodily sufferings during sleep bring to our recollection every circumstance that regards the malady. A patient who had a bottle of hot water placed at his feet, dreamed that he was walking in great agony in the burning lava of Vesuvius. Similar associations exist when awake: the man whose arm has been amputated, constantly refers the pain he experiences to the lost hand, or to that part of the limb which received the injury; and the very same nervous illusion prevails during his slumbers.

Longevity.

What are the circumstances most favourable to longevity? This question is not easily answered; for we find in instances of advanced age, that some individuals have led a regular and abstemious life, while others have indulged in various excesses. These observations, however, are by no means calculated to form a conclusive opinion, as the constitutional vigour and peculiar idiosyncrasies of individuals differ widely. It is probable that a regular mode of living is the most likely to prolong our years, whatever may be that regularity in a comparative point of view. A sober man, who commits occasional excesses, is more likely to suffer than another man, who gets drunk every night, provided that these excesses do not differ in regard to the quantity or quality of stimulus. In these melancholy instances, the excitement is constant, and the indirect debility which it may produce has scarcely time to break down the system, ere it is again wound up to its usual pitch, to use the vulgar expression, "by a hair of the same hound." The principal attribute of life that renovates for awhile its moral and its physical exhaustion is *excitability*, and a constant excitement is therefore indispensable, to serve as fuel to the consuming fire. This was to a certain degree the basis on which Brown founded his doctrine. He traced a scale of life like that of a thermometer,—health in the centre, death at each extremity: one scale ascending from health was graduated according to stimulating agency, the other to debilitating causes; and therefore the system

was to be stimulated or lowered according to this gradation. It would be foreign to this work to point out the absurdity of this theory, although we must admit its ingenuity, and to a certain extent its correctness. The chief practical objection to it was the diversity of constitutions and idiosyncrasies, and the different action of stimulating or depressing agents in health and in disease; the effects of alimentary and medicinal substances being totally different in these several conditions.

According to habit, a certain sum of stimulus is requisite to keep up the necessary excitement; and this sum cannot be immediately and suddenly withdrawn in weak subjects without some risk; in health, perhaps, the experiment may be safely made at all times, and under any circumstances, although it might be wiser to operate the change by degrees; and it must moreover be recollected, that an habitual drunkard is in a morbid condition, and must be treated accordingly.

Drunkenness.

In the accidents that follow intoxication, bleeding has frequently been resorted to. Nothing can be more hazardous than this practice, justly condemned by Darwin, Trotter, and most physicians, who have had frequent opportunities of witnessing the distressing train of symptoms, that inebriety brings on. Coffee and green tea will be found the most efficacious antidotes, when no sickness prevails. Nausea is counteracted by effervescent and aromatic draughts, such as soda-water, (so highly appreciated by Byron, when accompanied by a sermon, after a night's conviviality,) spruce-beet, Seidlitz powders, &c. The ancients had recourse to various means to counteract the effects of wine, and amongst others we find olives and olive-oil, wormwood, saffron. The Greeks used a solution of salt, a common remedy among sea-faring men to the present day; and the Romans surrounded their heads with wreaths of various, refreshing plants. When Aristotle tells us that Dionysius of Syracuse remained in a state of intoxication for eighty days, we must suppose that he got drunk every morning.

That the ancients were in the habit of diluting their wine with water, there cannot be a doubt. The Lacedemonians accused those who drank it pure of acting like Scythians—an expression introduced ever since Cleomenes the Spartan had learned to drink freely amongst them. The Thracians were also accused of this practice, which clearly proves that it was not general. Philochorus reports that Amphictyon, king of Athens, learned to mix wine and water from Bacchus himself, on which account he dedicated an altar to the god. According to Athenæus, this dilution was of various strength; some

times in the proportion of one to two, at others of one to five. The Lacedæmonians used to boil their wine till the fifth part was consumed, under the impression that they thus deprived it of its spirituous qualities. Sometimes this boiled wine was laid by for four years.

To add to the intoxicating power of wine, various means were resorted to, and a mixture of myrrha was supposed to produce this effect. Such was the *murrhina* of the Romans, mentioned in St. Mark's gospel, and which was given to malefactors before their execution.

Proverbs and Sayings regarding Health and Disease.

An ague in the spring is physic for a king.

Agues come on horseback, but go away on foot.

A bit in the morning is better than nothing all day.

You eat and eat, but you do not drink to ill you.

An apple, an egg, and a nut, you may eat after a slut.

Old young and old long.

They who would be young when they are old, must be old when they are young.

When the fern is as high as a spoon, You may sleep an hour at noon.

When the fern is as high as a ladle, You may sleep as long as you are able.

When fern begins to look red, Then milk is good with brown bread.

At forty a man is either a fool or a physician.

After dinner sit awhile, after supper walk a mile.

After dinner sleep awhile, after supper go to bed.

A good surgeon must have an eagle's eye, a lion's heart, and a lady's hand.

Good kale is half a meal.

If you would live for ever, you must wash milk from your liver.

Butter is gold in the morning, silver at noon, and lead at night.

He that would live for aye, must eat sage in May.

After cheese comes nothing.

An egg and to bed.

You must drink as much after an egg as after an ox.

He that goes to bed thirsty rises healthy.

One hour's sleep before midnight is worth two hours' after.

Who goes to bed supperless, all night tumbles and tenses.

Often and little eating makes a man fat.

Fish must swim thrice.

Drink wine and have the gout, drink no wine and have it too.

Young men's knocks, Old men feel.

Go to bed with the lamb, and rise with the lark.

Early to bed, and early to rise,
Makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.

Wash your hands often, your feet seldom, and your head never.

Eat at pleasure, drink by measure.

Cheese is a peevish elf,
It digests all but itself.

The best physicians are Dr. Diet, Dr. Quiet, and Dr. Merryman.

Drink in the morning sparingly,

Then all the day be sparing.

Eat a bit before you drink.

Feed sparingly and dupe the physician.

Better be meals many than one too many.

You should never touch your eye but with your elbow.

The head and feet keep warm, the rest will take no harm.

Cover your head by day as much as you will, by night as much as you can.

Fish spoils water, but flesh mends it.

Apples, pears, and nuts, spoil the voice.

Quartan agues kill old men and cure young.

Old fish, old oil, and an old friend.

Raw pullet, veal, and fish, make the churchyard fat.

Of wine the middle, of oil the top, of honey the bottom.

The air of a window is the stroke of a cross-bow.

When the wind is in the east, it's neither good for man nor beast.

A hot May makes a fat churchyard.

That city is in a bad case, whose physicians have the gout.—*Hebrew Proverb.*

When the sun rises, the disease will abate.*

If you take away the salt, throw the meat to the dogs.

Lever à cinq, diner à neuf,

Souper à cinq, coucher à neuf,

Font vivre dans nonante neuf.

Hunger's the best sauce.

Qui a bu, boira. Ever drunk, ever dry.

The child is too clever to live long.

Bitter to the mouth, sweet to the heart.

* A Hebrew proverb originating from a tradition that Abraham wore a precious stone round his neck, which preserved him from disease, and which cured sickness when looked upon. When Abraham died, God placed this stone in the sun.

The Public Journals.

A SCENE IN TICKLEBROOK CHURCH.

—*Bellon.*—I have an exposition of sleep come upon me.—*Middleman Night's Dream.*

DURING a short tour in the month of July, 1830, I became weather-bound, one Saturday afternoon, in the pleasant, little village of Ticklebrook, and was compelled to throw my-

self for a day or two on the tender mercies of mine host of the Pig and Blunderbuss. It was desperately hot—the sky—"pall'd in the dunnest smoke of hell"—the barometer and thermometer at variance, and on the most "distant terms"—the result of the whole being a thunder-shower, which might have passed muster with Noah for a sucking deluge: on the termination of which I was glad to escape from that catacomb of spittoons, saw-dust, and defunct *bakky-pipes*, cycled by courtesy "the best parlour," to the more satisfactory atmosphere of the neighbouring churchyard. The only visible tenant of this place, besides myself, was a huge he-goat, who appeared to be nuzzling among the tombs, when, perceiving me, he approached, with such indubitable symptoms of hostility, that I was under the necessity of rebuffing his attacks with the butt end of my horsewhip. The exterior of the church wore a character of antiquity, which bespoke my curiosity for a further investigation; but, from the height of the windows on one side, and the dirty opacity of the glass on the other, I was obliged to defer the internal survey until the morrow. On returning to the parlour of "mine inn," "taking his ease" in the chair which I had recently vacated, was a respectably dressed, unctuous, little personage, whose latitude and longitude presented the same relative proportions as those usually bestowed on a collar of brawn—the resemblance thereunto being still further maintained in the mottled lustre of his visage. This worthy lay coiled up, like a hedgehog, in the extreme recesses of the capacious chair, and proclaimed triumphantly through his nasal trumpet the victory he had achieved over the cares of this world. Being somewhat tired myself, I left him to the society of Morpheus and his empty rummer, and soon tumbled into bed, to the mutual annoyance of myself and a prolific colony of fleas, whose claim to the title of "industrious" was amply established on various parts of my body corporate during the night. Having taken summary vengeance on some score or so of these *scab-bottomists*, I descended to breakfast to the tune of the matin chimes; and in due time repaired to the church, where accommodation was proffered me by a well-to-do looking family, evidently of some note in the village, from the spacious seat in baize and brass bedight, and the stalwart build of their prayer-books. Almost in a line with my *locale*, on the opposite side of the aisle, was a large, aristocratic-looking pew, unoccupied, save by sundry, scarlet cushions of estimable plumpness, and corner pillows to match, right portly in dimension. The service had proceeded to the end of the first lesson, and I was speculating with myself to what magnitude of the land this luxurious chapel of ease might appertain, when

a bustle in the aisle immediately leading to it interrupted my cogitations, and, lo!

"Like some infernal demon sent,
Red from his penal element,
To plague and to pollute the air;"

or, rather, like a twelve-inch globe, in "flame-coloured taffeta"—appeared the benighted frontispiece of the very worthy whom I left snoring on the previous evening in the parlour of the Pig and Blunderbuss. That he was a "stranger," was evident from the inquiring glances he shot off in quest of a seat; yet nobody "took him in." Either the pews in his immediate vicinity were already occupied, or the proprietors of any chance vacancies manifested no great alacrity in seeking a nearer contact with this little *ignis fatuus*. In this dilemma, his eye at length lighted on the gorgeous vacuum before-mentioned; and entertaining, with Dame Nature, a charitable abhorrence for such a state, he made for the open door, and, without more ado, trundled his pogy periphery into the snugger corner of the pew, and appropriated a brace of the well-stuffed pillows for the especial solace of his dorsal extremities. Here he nestled, like a mouse in a meal-tub, and, if I mistake not, slept, until aroused by the pulmonary efforts of the choir and congregation, in giving due effect to the old 100th Psalm. However, at the singing, he stood up, and, moreover, paid decorous observance to the established ritual during the communion-service and the succeeding psalm. But scarcely had the latter tumult dwindled to a calm, ere his loins were again consigned to the soothing embraces of cushion and pillow—his hands, linked together, reposed in affectionate guardianship on his ample diaphragm—his lobster-like eyeballs "paled their ineffable fires"—the lids flickered like an expiring rushlight—and he gradually merged into a state of total oblivion, with the startling text, "Awake, thou that sleepest!" for his lullaby. In spite of the zeal and eloquence of the speaker, which were of no common order, I could not prevent my attention ever and anon swerving from the subject of the discourse to the insensate lump of mortality in the opposite pew; more especially as the recollection of his last night's nasal powers begat a nervous apprehension lest a similar performance should subject his present, untimely eclipse to a public rebuke from the pulpit. My anxiety, however, on this head, was speedily diverted to an object which threatened an interruption of more formidable character. In consequence of the excessive heat of the weather, some of the doors of the church were necessarily left open during the service. Now, whether it was that he only meditated a retreat from the fervour of the Sunday sun, or that he was compelled to seek the shelter of the sacred edifices from the warren annoyances of

profane loiterers in the churchyard, I know not; but certain it is that my bearded enemy of the previous evening, the he-goat before noticed, made his appearance in the porch, immediately within my ken; and, after executing a prefatory *pas seul*, not strictly of the Taglioni school, he gradually insinuated himself through the aisle, until he came directly opposite the open pew occupied by the unconscious contemner of the text. Here he planted himself, and deliberately surveyed our sleeping hero with a curious attention. Naturalists, learned in the domestic economy of these animals, assert that they are, for the most part, of a headstrong disposition, and much given to warfare among themselves; and, moreover, that their signal for battle is invariably conveyed by three nods of the head. How far this is worthy of credit, I am unable to verify beyond the instance now narrating. However, the immediate object of the goat's contemplation had, by this time, taken a far journey into "the land of Nod," and soon acknowledged the attention of the animal by a how of lolling profundity. Billy, as if perceiving some indefinite symptoms of capriciousness about him, answered it with a short nod of defiance; a second declension of the head met with a similar response; and the third dip had scarcely reached zero ere the challenge was accepted by the goat, who, lowering his horns, rushed full butt through the doorway, and pitched into his supposed antagonist in a style which would not have disgraced the palmiest days of Cribb or Game Chicken. In a few moments after "the collision," the church was in an universal uproar. The seat-door was closed on the combatants; and our hero, thus unceremoniously recalled to his senses, and a half-consciousness of the scene of his delinquency, verily believed himself delivered over to a prey to the arch-fiend in person. In the extremity of his fear, he seized one of the pillows, which he brandished as a shield, and the which, at the next onset, became fixed on the horns of the enemy. In this state, an energetic kick deposited the latter in the opposite corner of the pew, where our little man pelted him with prayer-books, bibles, pillows, hymn-books, hassocks, and every other extempore piece of ammunition within his reach. After which, in a paroxysm of bewilderment, he scrambled into and over some half score of seats and pews, with the agility of a chimpanzee, bolted like a blazing meteor through the nearest doorway, and finally effected a lodgment in his bed-room, at the Pig and Blunderbuss, in a state little short of insanity.

On my return to the inn, some two hours after this extraordinary exhibition, I descended from the waiter what had become of the gentleman who had played so conspic-

uous a part in it, and learned that he had not yet left his apartment. Considering the state of excitement in which he must have entered it, this seemed to me somewhat odd; and I could not help entertaining vague conjectures, that a sense of shame, consequent on 'his recent *exposé*, had driven him to commit some act of desperation on his own person. However, as I had no right to meddle with the affairs of a perfect stranger, I suppressed my suspicions, and paid my respects to a rump-steak and a magnum of port, with the orthodox zeal of a true Blue Friar. At length, as the evening closed in, and I sat ruminating on the past occurrences of the day, my former anxieties returned; and, learning from the waiter that the gentleman was *still* in his bed-room, and had not yet ordered dinner, I ventured to suggest to that functionary the propriety of ascertaining the real state of the case by a personal application at the door of the said dormitory. In this expedition, I offered to bear him company, and be alone responsible for thus violating the privacy of the recluse. I might have spared myself this latter work of supererogation; for no sooner had we reached the chamber, and the ear of my companion approached the keyhole, than the listening contraction of his face dilated to a most expansive, self-laudatory grin, as he exclaimed, "I'm blowed! if I didn't think so—he's at it again; snoring away like a bass-viol. I never see no sich a vatmint for sleeping as that 'ere chap—in all my born days. Bless if I don't think he'd sleep in a belfry all through the king's birth-day! But here comes master—he'll tell ye all about the gentleman."

From the landlord I gathered, that the party in question had arrived by the London coach some few days before; and, after taking a hasty dinner, retired to bed, desiring to be called at eight o'clock the next morning: that at the hour appointed, to the repeated vociferations of the waiter, "Tis past eight, sir," accompanied by a furious cannonading on the door panel, no sort of notice was vouchsafed by the inmate: that a forcible entry was therefore deemed expedient, when, to the consternation of the assembled besiegers, our little hero was discovered, seated at the foot of the bed, bolt upright, dead asleep, and in full snore, his left arm embracing one of the pillars with most amatory seal. In this situation, he must evidently have remained through the night, his candle being quite burned out, and the operation of undressing having proceeded no further than the doffing of coat and waistcoat, and one boot and stocking—the boot-jack being still attached to the heel of the other foot. The single "Hollands bottom" recorded against him in the bar-book, quashed the rising suspicion of intoxi-

cation as the cause of his outrageous nap; although this might reasonably have been entertained from the cool manner of his informing the waiter, who awakes him after no very gentle fashion, that "he thought he would have his tea now, and go to bed, as he felt somewhat tired from his journey." At length, however, conviction of the real state of affairs stared him in the face, and he stammered out some incoherent apologies for his apparently extraordinary conduct—that it had been an infirmity with him since his birth—and he was constantly being betrayed by it into the most awkward situations. This was all the landlord knew of him; but connected as it was with his luckless *contretemps* in the church, it begat an interest about him, which determined me on taking the earliest opportunity of making his acquaintance, and ascertaining a little more of his history. On descending to my breakfast the next morning, I discovered, to my mortification, that he had contrived to get the start of me, and was off again by the London coach,—a ticket, which had escaped from his carpet-bag, being the only clue to the mysteries of the "local habitation and the name" of this scion of the "Seven Sound Sleepers;" and which afforded the satisfactory evidences of the said bag belonging to "S. B. passenger."—*Fraser's Magazine.*

The Gatherer.

Yankee Wit.—A "notion seller" was offering yankee clocks, finely varnished and coloured, and with a looking-glass in front, to a certain lady not remarkable for personal beauty. "Why it's beautiful," said the vender.—"Beautiful, indeed! a look at it almost frightens me!" said the lady.—"Then, marm," replied Jonathan, "guess you'd better buy one that han't got no looking glass."

Under the government of George Frederick, in 1683, the strange ceremony of the procession of the Great Königsberg Sausage took place, which is said to have measured 586 ells in length, and to have weighed 434 lbs.—*German Tourist.*

To Bald People.—"French brandy with sulphate of copper," says a New York paper, "applied once a-day, will make your hair grow." To this a Philadelphia paper adds—"and if the hair should grow too abundantly, take a quart of French brandy a day, with a little sugar and nutmeg, and it will come off again. Thus, brandy for your baldness, and brandy for abundant hair."—*American Paper.*

Singular Revenge.—Two workmen having quarrelled in a sugar refiner's at Valenciennes, one of them threw his comrade into a copper of thick molasses. The latter scrambled out,

covered from head to foot with the sugary stuff, and, angry at his adversary, rushed into the streets just as he was, to make his way to the King's Procureur to obtain legal redress. It was freezing very hard at the time, and the sugar became so firm that when he arrived at the house of the magistrate, he looked like a substantial stick of barley sugar. His arms were candied to his side, and he was compelled to ask a by-stander to ring the bell for him. This curious exhibition attracted crowds of spectators, and excited much merriment.—*The Newspapers.*

Cure for Venomous Bites.—M. Tschiffely has written from Blois to the French Academy of Sciences, stating that during his sojourn at Brasil, he cured fourteen negroes bitten by venomous serpents, by the external application of essence of turpentine. He continued the application for an hour; and even succeeded when the wound had been inflicted forty-eight hours before. He had cured the stings of scorpions, &c., in the same manner, and believes that this remedy would be efficacious for the bite of mad dogs.

L. P. S.

Highlandman and the Gas.—One evening lately, a Highlandman took up his quarters in a hotel in town, and was shown into a bedroom lighted with gas. Donald, being fearful of robbers, and wishing to sleep as light as possible, allowed the gas to burn until the dawn. Next morning the landlady inquired whether he had enjoyed a good night's rest? "I could not sleep a moment for your abomination kass smell."—"You should have stopped it, sir, or called the servant to do it."—"And did I'll not blew't out? but it was a great deal more worse than before."

An Economical Preacher.—A parochial incumbent, whose scene of labour borders on the Strath of Blane, was blamed for having an erroneous opinion of the memories of his hearers, inasmuch as he frequently entertained them with "cauld kail hot again," in the shape of sermons that he had previously given. On one occasion, his own memory allowed him to make a slip, and only a Sabbath elapsed between the giving of the sermon a second time. After the dismissal of the congregation, the beadle remarked to him, "I hae often heard ye blamed, sir, for giein' us auld sermons; but they'll surely no say that o' the aye ye gieid them this afternoon, for it's just a fortnicht sin' they heard it afore in the same place!"—*The Laird of Logan.*

LONDON: Printed and published by J. LIMBIRD, 143, Strand, (near Somerset House); and sold by all Booksellers and Newsmen.—Agent in PARIS, G. W. M. REYNOLDS, French, English, and American Library, 55, Rue Neuve, St. Augustin.—at FRANKFORT, CHARLES JUGEL.